



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY No. 22. PRELIMINARY RESULTS.

INTRODUCTION

Quarterly Business Survey Number 22, which was circulated at the end of September, 1952, asked for details of employment and wage figures for each sex for the month of September, 1952 and for the value of stocks held at balancing dates in 1951 and 1952 and at September, 1952. The Survey was sent to a selected list of businesses covering all types of activity except rural industry, government, and government business undertakings.

AVERAGE EARNINGS

The purpose of this part of the Survey was to obtain an estimate of the ratio of female to male earnings. The actual level of earnings for each sex is not directly comparable with figures obtained from earlier Surveys because the purpose of the Survey and therefore the information requested differed somewhat from the information asked for in earlier Surveys which dealt with average earnings.

Table 1 shows the average earnings per month and the estimated weekly equivalent during September, 1952. Earnings include all payments made to employees, whether covered by awards or not. In addition they differ from award rates because of payments for overtime, short time, absenteeism, bonuses, merit money, etc. The estimated weekly equivalent is calculated by dividing the average earnings per month by 4.2, the estimated number of weekly pays which were made during September.

TABLE 1. AVERAGE EARNINGS, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER, 1952
(By employees of private businesses subject to payroll tax - excluding rural industry).

	Average earnings per month		Estimated weekly equivalent		Ratio: female to male
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	%
Manufacturing	67. 44. 9.	37.14. 4.	16. 0. 2.	8.19. 7.	56.1
Other industries (a)	65.19. 4.	36. 7. 0.	15.14. 2.	8.13. 1.	55.1
All industries (a)	66.13. 0	36.19. 1.	15.17. 4.	8.15.11.	55.4

(a) Excludes shipping and stevedoring.

The percentage of female to male earnings has changed only slightly since September, 1951. In manufacturing industry the percentage of female to male average earnings fell from 57.0 per cent in September, 1951 to 56.1 per cent in September, 1952, and for all industries it fell from 56.4 per cent to 55.4 per cent over the same period.

VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS

The second part of Quarterly Business Survey No. 22 asked for the value of stocks held at the last two annual balancing dates prior to September, 1952, and for an estimate of the value held at September, 1952. The figures asked for were the values of stocks as used for balance sheet purposes, and so included stocks of all kinds - fuel and raw materials, goods in process and finished goods.

Table 1 shows the estimated total book value of stocks of goods held by those private manufacturing and trading businesses which are subject to payroll tax. Businesses which are not subject to tax, including family businesses not employing labour, are excluded.

**TABLE 1. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY MANUFACTURERS
AND TRADERS, 1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1952**

	As at annual balancing dates in the year ended September							Sept.
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1952
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
Manufacturers	217	260	322	386	445	601	7795	770
Traders (wholesale and retail)	114	163	212	247	295	373	500	471
TOTAL	331	423	534	633	740	974	1,295	1,241

In the twelve months preceding the 1952 balancing dates the value of total stocks rose by £321m. or 33 per cent. Between the 1952 balancing dates and September, 1952 the value of stocks held by both manufacturers and by wholesale and retail traders fell slightly. Manufacturers' stocks fell by 3 per cent traders' stocks by 6 per cent, and total stocks by 4 per cent.

Table 2 shows the value of stocks held in the principal manufacturing industries since 1946.

**TABLE 2. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY MANUFACTURERS
1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1952**

	As at annual balancing dates in the year ended September							Sept.
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1952
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
Engineering, vehicles	81	95	115	140	175	235	325	315
Textiles	16	18	21	30	36	60	53	50
Clothing	18	21	29	36	39	51	61	53
Food, drink, tobacco	44	53	60	68	75	99	132	133
Paper, printing	11	15	23	25	22	28	51	41
Other manufacturing	47	58	74	87	98	128	173	172
All manufacturing:	217	260	322	386	445	601	795	770

The total value of stocks held by manufacturers rose by £194m. between balancing dates in 1951 and 1952, an increase of 32 per cent. Engineering and vehicles accounted for £90m. of the increase, but the largest percentage increase occurred in the paper and printing industry where value of stocks rose by 45 per cent. Stocks fell in the textile industry, the fall being fairly small for cotton textiles but substantial for woollen textiles.

Between the 1952 balancing dates and September, 1952, the value of manufacturers' stocks fell by £25m. Stocks were fairly steady in food, drink and tobacco and in "Other manufacturing", but fell in other industries. The most important falls were in textiles (6 per cent), clothing (13 per cent) and paper and printing (20 per cent).

Table 3 shows the value of stocks held by wholesale and retail traders since 1946.

**TABLE 3. BOOK VALUE OF STOCKS OF GOODS HELD BY TRADERS
1946 TO SEPTEMBER, 1952**

	As at annual balancing dates in the year ended September							Sept.
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1952
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
Wholesale trading	59	88	121	145	180	220	327	301
Retail trading	55	75	91	102	115	153	173	170
All trading:	114	163	212	247	295	373	500	471

Traders' stocks rose by £127m. between the 1951 and 1952 balancing dates, but the rise had been checked by September, 1952 and stocks had fallen by £29m. from the 1952 level, a fall of 6 per cent. Wholesale traders' stocks, fluctuated more than retailers' stocks, since wholesalers' stocks rose 49 per cent between the 1951 and 1952 balancing dates and then fell by 8 per cent while retailers' stocks rose 13 per cent and fell by 2 per cent.